

House Resolution 138 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 138

BY HELLAND, SWEENEY, MOORE, PAUSTIAN, KLEIN, DE BOEF,
QUIRK, MUHLBAUER, H. MILLER, and SANDS

1 A Resolution to urge the United States Congress not
2 to enact House Resolution 3798, the Egg Products
3 Inspection Act Amendments of 2012.

4 WHEREAS, House Resolution 3798 (HR 3798), the Egg
5 Products Inspection Act Amendments of 2012, introduced
6 in the United States House of Representatives on
7 January 23, 2012, would mandate that commercial egg
8 producers transition to a new system of egg production
9 using colony housing by the end of 2029; and

10 WHEREAS, HR 3798, if enacted, would codify an
11 agreement reached in 2011 between United Egg Producers
12 (UEP) and the Humane Society of the United States
13 (HSUS) nullifying existing state laws and denying state
14 legislatures the ability to enact laws to regulate egg
15 production in their respective states; and

16 WHEREAS, the agreement reached in 2011 between UEP
17 and HSUS has resulted in the threatened cessation of
18 ballot initiatives in a number of states mandating
19 hen spacing and housing requirements, undercover
20 investigations promoted by HSUS, campaigns to
21 intimidate customers, and legal attacks waged against
22 UEP; and

23 WHEREAS, while HR 3798 is supported by the American
24 Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Farm
25 Sanctuary, and other animal rights activist groups,
26 overwhelmingly mainstream agricultural organizations
27 oppose this radical legislation; and

1 WHEREAS, mainstream agricultural organizations
2 opposed to HR 3798 include the American Farm Bureau
3 Federation, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association,
4 the National Pork Producers Council, the National
5 Chicken Council, the National Turkey Federation,
6 and the National Milk Producers Federation which all
7 understand that the proposed federal legislation sets
8 a dangerous precedent for future federal intrusions
9 into state legislative jurisdiction by preempting state
10 control over all of livestock; and

11 WHEREAS, HR 3798 threatens to create federally
12 imposed standards for egg production that are based on
13 the political goals of HSUS, which seeks to eventually
14 shut down animal agriculture by government mandate; and

15 WHEREAS, as agricultural science has improved
16 animal care, farmers and ranchers have steadily and
17 voluntarily adopted improvements to enhance the health,
18 well-being, and productivity of their animals and the
19 viability of their operations; and

20 WHEREAS, the United States food supply, which
21 is critical to the security of this nation, and
22 which depends upon scientifically proven production
23 standards, should not be outlawed on the basis of a
24 political agenda; and

25 WHEREAS, HR 3798, if enacted, would deprive the
26 freedom of producers to operate using methods that are
27 in the best interests of their agricultural animals,
28 would increase food prices, would devastate the
29 operations of niche and small agricultural producers
30 by requiring overzealous labeling requirements, and

1 would redirect vital resources away from enhancing food
2 safety; and

3 WHEREAS, HR 3798 or similar legislation, that,
4 if enacted, would result in mandated animal care
5 standards based on the political goals of animal
6 rights activists who seek to eventually shut down vital
7 sectors of animal agriculture by government mandate,
8 and threatens all livestock producers by the use of
9 coercive tactics; and

10 WHEREAS, HR 3798 ignores long-standing science that
11 supports the consensus of mainstream agricultural
12 veterinarians, animal scientists, and livestock
13 producers regarding scientifically proven production
14 standards; and

15 WHEREAS, HR 3798 is a prime example of a
16 heavy-handed government mandate based primarily on the
17 extreme political agenda of animal rights activists who
18 have no regard for science-based animal husbandry or
19 for this nation's hard-working and conscientious farm
20 families who each day provide our nation with wholesome
21 food from well-cared-for livestock; and

22 WHEREAS, Iowa is one of the leading agricultural
23 states, ranking first in egg production as well as
24 first in corn, soybean, and swine production; and

25 WHEREAS, in 2010 the average number of egg layers on
26 hand in Iowa was 54.25 million, with a total production
27 equaling 14.61 billion eggs having a value of \$824.3
28 million; and

29 WHEREAS, according to Iowa State University,
30 agricultural production and agricultural-related

1 industries directly or indirectly employ one out of
2 every six Iowans and are responsible for contributing
3 \$72.1 billion to the state's economy; and

4 WHEREAS, any federal legislation which would nullify
5 existing state laws and deny state legislatures the
6 ability to enact laws specific to their own needs is an
7 unacceptable intrusion into the ability of states to
8 meet the needs of their citizenry; and

9 WHEREAS, HR 3798 threatens to establish a model for
10 a one-size-fits-all approach to livestock production
11 regulation, which does not account for the agricultural
12 diversity of the 50 states; NOW THEREFORE,

13 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
14 the Iowa House of Representatives opposes HR 3798,
15 the Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments of 2012,
16 which if enacted would nullify existing state laws and
17 abrogate the traditional right of state legislatures to
18 regulate conditions associated with egg production; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Iowa House of
20 Representatives urges the Iowa congressional delegation
21 to oppose the passage of any federal legislation that
22 would significantly harm Iowa's livestock industry,
23 including HR 3798 that establishes a dangerous
24 precedent by intruding into the affairs of states
25 regulating the methods for housing and producing
26 livestock; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
28 resolution be delivered to the Honorable United States
29 Representative Frank Lucas, Chairman of the House
30 Committee on Agriculture and the Honorable United

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1 States Representative Collin Peterson, Ranking Member
2 of the House Committee on Agriculture; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
4 resolution be delivered to the Honorable United States
5 Senator Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman of the United
6 States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and
7 Forestry, and the Honorable United States Senator Pat
8 Roberts, Ranking Member of the United States Senate
9 Committee on Agriculture; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
11 resolution be delivered to each member of Iowa's
12 congressional delegation.